

THE DREAMERS  
AND  
OTHER POEMS

---

THEODOSIA GARRISON



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2025

To Bertha;

Fond companion in love.

From. M<sup>rs</sup>.







**THE DREAMERS  
AND OTHER POEMS**





# THE DREAMERS AND OTHER POEMS

BY  
THEODOSIA GARRISON



NEW YORK  
GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY

COPYRIGHT, 1917,  
BY GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO  
F. J. F.

*September, 1917*



For the privilege of reprinting the poems included in this volume the author thanks the Editors of Scribner's, Harper's Magazine, Harper's Bazar, McClure's, Collier's Weekly, The Delineator, The Designer, Ainslee's, Everybody's, The Smart Set, The Cosmopolitan, Lippincott's, Munsey's, The Rosary, The Pictorial Review, The Bookman, and the Newark Sunday Call.



# CONTENTS

|                                      | PAGE |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| THE DREAMERS . . . . .               | 13   |
| THREE SONGS IN A GARDEN . . . . .    | 15   |
| THE RETURN . . . . .                 | 19   |
| BLACK SHEEP . . . . .                | 21   |
| MONSEIGNEUR PLAYS . . . . .          | 23   |
| UNBELIEF . . . . .                   | 26   |
| THE SILENT ONE . . . . .             | 27   |
| THE ROSE . . . . .                   | 29   |
| THE SONG OF THE YOUNG PAGE . . . . . | 31   |
| THE NEW SPRING . . . . .             | 33   |
| THE BURDEN . . . . .                 | 35   |
| THE BRIDE . . . . .                  | 36   |
| THE SEER OF HEARTS . . . . .         | 39   |
| THE UNSEEN MIRACLE . . . . .         | 40   |
| THE APRIL BOUGHS . . . . .           | 41   |
| TRANSIENTS . . . . .                 | 43   |
| THE MOTHER . . . . .                 | 44   |
| WHEN PIERROT PASSES . . . . .        | 45   |
| THE POET . . . . .                   | 47   |
| MAGDALEN . . . . .                   | 49   |
| A SALEM MOTHER . . . . .             | 51   |
| THE DAYS . . . . .                   | 55   |
| THE CALL . . . . .                   | 56   |
| THE PARASITE . . . . .               | 58   |
| YOUTH . . . . .                      | 62   |
| THE EMPTY HOUSE . . . . .            | 64   |
| THE BROKEN LUTE . . . . .            | 66   |
| ORCHARDS . . . . .                   | 67   |

|                                      | PAGE |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| TWILIGHT . . . . .                   | 69   |
| A LOVE SONG . . . . .                | 71   |
| OLD BOATS . . . . .                  | 72   |
| BEAUTY . . . . .                     | 74   |
| A SONG . . . . .                     | 76   |
| MOTHERS OF MEN . . . . .             | 77   |
| LOVELACE GROWN OLD . . . . .         | 79   |
| SHADE . . . . .                      | 84   |
| THE VAGABOND . . . . .               | 86   |
| DISTANCE . . . . .                   | 88   |
| THE GYPSYING . . . . .               | 89   |
| GOOD-BYE, PIERETTE . . . . .         | 92   |
| THE AWAKENING . . . . .              | 94   |
| THE WEDDING GOWN . . . . .           | 96   |
| THE DISCIPLES . . . . .              | 98   |
| THE UNKNOWING . . . . .              | 100  |
| HEART OF A HUNDRED SORROWS . . . . . | 101  |
| THE RETURNING . . . . .              | 103  |
| THE INLANDER . . . . .               | 104  |
| AD FINEM . . . . .                   | 106  |
| A SONG OF HELOISE . . . . .          | 108  |
| THE RETURN . . . . .                 | 109  |
| THE POPLARS . . . . .                | 111  |
| THE LITTLE JOYS . . . . .            | 113  |

## SONGS OF HIMSELF

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| HIMSELF . . . . .          | 117 |
| THE FAIR . . . . .         | 120 |
| THE DANCING DAYS . . . . . | 123 |
| SHEILA . . . . .           | 126 |
| THE GRIEF . . . . .        | 128 |
| THE INTRODUCTION . . . . . | 130 |
| THE STAY-AT-HOME . . . . . | 132 |



THE DREAMERS  
AND OTHER POEMS



# THE DREAMERS AND OTHER POEMS

## THE DREAMERS

THE gypsies passed her little gate—  
She stopped her wheel to see,—  
A brown-faced pair who walked the road,  
Free as the wind is free;  
And suddenly her tidy room  
A prison seemed to be.

Her shining plates against the walls,  
Her sunlit, sanded floor,  
The brass-bound wedding chest that held  
Her linen's snowy store,

The very wheel whose humming died,—  
Seemed only chains she bore.

She watched the foot-free gypsies pass;  
She never knew or guessed  
The wistful dream that drew them close—  
The longing in each breast  
Some day to know a home like hers,  
Wherein their hearts might rest.

## THREE SONGS IN A GARDEN

## I

WHITE rose-leaves in my hands,  
I toss you all away;  
The winds shall blow you through the  
world  
To seek my wedding day.  
Or East you go, or West you go  
And fall on land or sea,  
Find the one that I love best  
And bring him here to me.  
And if he finds me spinning  
'Tis short I'll break my thread;  
And if he finds me dancing  
I'll dance with him instead;

If he finds me at the Mass—

(Ah, let this not be,

Lest I forget my sweetest saint

The while he kneels by me!)

## II

My lilies are like nuns in white

That guard me well all day,

But the red, red rose that near them grows

Is wiser far than they.

Oh, red rose, wise rose,

Keep my secret well;

I kiss you twice, I kiss you thrice

To pray you not to tell.

My lilies sleep beneath the moon,

But wide awake are you,

And you have heard a certain word

And seen a dream come true.

Oh, red rose, wise rose,  
Silence for my sake,  
Nor drop to-night a petal light  
Lest my white lilies wake.

## III

Will the garden never forget  
That it whispers over and over,  
“Where is your lover, Nanette?  
Where is your lover—your lover?”  
Oh, roses I helped to grow,  
Oh, lily and mignonette,  
Must you always question me so,  
“Where is your lover, Nanette?”  
Since you looked on my joy one day,  
Is my grief then a lesser thing?  
Have you only this to say  
When I pray you for comforting?

Now that I walk alone

Here where our hands were met,  
Must you whisper me every one,  
"Where is your lover, Nanette?"

I have mourned with you year and year,  
When the Autumn has left you bare,  
And now that my heart is sere  
Does not one of your roses care?  
Oh, help me forget—forget,  
Nor question over and over,  
"Where is your lover, Nanette?  
Where is your lover—your lover?"



## THE RETURN

I LOST Young Love so long ago

I had forgot him quite,

Until a little lass and lad

Went by my door to-night.

Ah, hand in hand, but not alone,

They passed my open door,

For with them walked that other one

Who paused here Mays before.

And I, who had forgotten long,

Knew suddenly the grace

Of one who in an empty land

Beholds a kinsman's face.

Oh, Young Love, gone these many years,

'Twas you came back to-night,

And laid your hand on my two eyes

That they might see aright,

And took my listless hand in yours

(Your hands without a stain),

And touched me on my tired heart

That it might beat again.

## BLACK SHEEP

*"Black Sheep, Black Sheep,*

*Have you any wool?"*

*"That I have, my Master,*

*Three bags full."*

ONE is for the mother who prays for me at  
night—

A gift of broken promises to count by candle-  
light.

One is for the tried friend who raised me when  
I fell—

A gift of weakling's tinsel oaths that strew the  
path to hell.

And one is for the true love—the heaviest of all—  
That holds the pieces of a faith a careless hand  
let fall.

*Black Sheep, Black Sheep,  
Have you ought to say?  
A word to each, my Master,  
Ere I go my way.*

A word unto my mother to bid her think o' me  
Only as a little lad playing at her knee.

A word unto my tried friend to bid him see again  
Two laughing lads in Springtime a-racing down  
the glen.

A word unto my true love—a single word—to  
pray  
If one day I cross her path to turn her eyes away.

## MONSEIGNEUR PLAYS

MONSEIGNEUR plays his new gavotte—

Within her gilded chair the Queen

Listens, her rustling maids between;

A very tulip-garden stirred

To hear the fluting of a bird;

Faint sunlight through the casement falls

On cupids painted on the walls

At play with doves. Precisely set

Awaits the slender legged spinet

Expectant of its happy lot,

The while the player stays to twist

The cobweb ruffle from his wrist.

A pause, and then— (Ah, whisper not)

Monseigneur plays his new gavotte.

Monseigneur plays his new gavotte—

Hark, 'tis the faintest dawn of Spring,

So still the dew drops whispering

Is loud upon the violets;

Here in this garden of Pierrettes'

Where Pierrot waits, ah, hasten Sweet,

And hear; on dainty, tripping feet

She comes—the little, glad coquette.

"Ah thou, Pierrot?" "Ah thou, Pierrette?"

A kiss, nay, hear—a bird wakes, then

A silence—and they kiss again,

"Ah, Mesdames, have you quite forgot—"

(So laughs his music.) "Love's first kiss?"

Let this note lead you then, and this

Back to that fragrant garden-spot."

Monseigneur plays his new gavotte.

Monseigneur plays his new gavotte—

Ah, hear—in that last note they go

The little lovers laughing so;  
Kissing their finger-tips, they dance  
From out this gilded room of France.  
Adieu! Monseigneur rises now  
Ready for compliment and bow,  
Playing about his mouth the while  
Its cynical, accustomed smile,  
Protests and, hand on heart, avers  
The patience of his listeners.  
"A masterpiece? Ah, surely not."  
A grey-eyed maid of honour slips  
A long stemmed rose across her lips  
And drops it; does he guess her thought?  
Monseigneur plays his new gavotte.

## UNBELIEF

Your chosen grasp the torch of faith—the key  
Of very certainty is theirs to hold.

They read Your word in messages of gold.  
Lord, what of us who have no light to see  
And in the darkness doubt, whose hands may be  
Broken upon the door, who find but cold  
Ashes of words where others see enscrolled,  
The glorious promise of Life's victory.

Oh, well for those to whom You gave the light  
(The light we may not see by) whose award  
Is that sure key—that message luminous,  
Yet we, your people stumbling in the night,  
Doubting and dumb and disbelieving—Lord,  
Is there no word for us—no word for us?



## THE SILENT ONE

THE moon to-night is like the sun  
Through blossomed branches seen;  
Come out with me, dear silent one,  
And trip it on the green.

"Nay, Lad, go you within its light,  
Nor stay to urge me so—  
'Twas on another moonlit night  
My heart broke long ago."

Oh loud and high the pipers play  
To speed the dancers on;  
Come out and be as glad as they,  
Oh, little Silent one.

"Nay, Lad, where all your mates are met

Go you the selfsame way,

Another dance I would forget

Wherein I too was gay."

But here you sit long day by day

With those whose joys are done;

What mates these townfolk old and grey

For you dear Silent one.

"Nay, Lad, they're done with joys and fears.

Rare comrades should we prove,

For they are very old with years

And I am old with love."

## THE ROSE

I took the love you gave, Ah, carelessly,  
Counting it only as a rose to wear  
A little moment on my heart no more,  
So many roses had I worn before,  
So lightly that I scarce believed them there.

But, Lo! this rose between the dusk and dawn  
Hath turned to very flame upon my breast,  
A flame that burns the day-long and the night,  
A flame of very anguish and delight  
That not for any moment yields me rest.

And I am troubled with a strange, new fear,  
How would it be if even to your door

I came to cry your pitying one day,  
And you should lightly laugh and lightly say,  
"That was a rose I gave you—nothing more."

## THE SONG OF THE YOUNG PAGE

ALL that I know of love I see  
In eyes that never look at me;  
All that I know of love I guess  
But from another's happiness.

A beggar at the window I,  
Who, famished, looks on revelry;  
A slave who lifts his torch to guide  
The happy bridegroom to his bride.

My granddam told me once of one  
Whom all her village spat upon,  
Seeing the church from out its breast  
Had cast him cursed and unconfessed.

An outcast he who dared not take  
The wafer that God's vicars break,  
But dull-eyed watched his neighbours pass  
With shining faces from the Mass.

Oh thou, my brother, take my hand,  
More than one God hath blessed and banned  
And hidden from man's anguished glance  
The glory of his countenance.

All that I know of love I see  
In eyes that never look at me;  
All that I know of love I guess  
But from another's happiness.

## THE NEW SPRING

THE long grief left her old—and then  
Came love and made her young again  
As though some newer, gentler Spring  
Should start dead roses blossoming;  
Old roses that have lain full long  
In some forgotten book of song,  
Brought from their darkness to be one  
With lilting winds and rain and sun;  
And as they too might bring away  
From that dim volume where they lay  
Some lyric hint, some song's perfume  
To add its beauty to their bloom,  
So love awakes her heart that lies

Shrouded in fragrant memories,  
And bids it bloom again and wake  
Sweeter for that old sorrow's sake.



## THE BURDEN

THE burden that I bear would be no less  
Should I cry out against it; though I fill  
The weary day with sound of my distress,  
It were my burden still.

The burden that I bear may be no more  
For all I bear it silently and stay  
Sometimes to laugh and listen at a door  
Where joy keeps holiday.

I ask no more save only this may be—  
On life's long road, where many comrades fare,  
One shall not guess, though he keep step with me,  
The burden that I bear.

## THE BRIDE

## I

THOUGH other eyes were turned to him,  
He turned to look in mine;  
Though others filled the cup abrim,  
He might not taste the wine.

I am so glad my eyes were first  
In which his own might sink;  
I am so glad he went athirst  
Until I bade him drink.

## II

The Well-Belovèd took my hand  
And led me to his fair abode,

The home that Love and he had planned.

(Strange that so well I knew the road.)

And through the open door we went,

And at our feet the hearth-light fell,

And I—I laughed in all content,

Seeing I knew the place so well.

Ah, to no stranger Love displayed

Its every nook, its every grace,

This was the House of Dreams I made

Long, long before I saw his face.

### III

I jested over-much in days of old,

I looked on sorrow once and did not care,

Now Love hath crowned my head with very  
gold,

I will be worthy of the joy I wear.

There is not one a-hungered or a-cold  
Shall seek my door but that he too shall  
share

Something of this vast happiness I hold;  
I will be worthy of the joy I wear.

For I was hungered and Love spread the  
feast,

Cold—and He touched my heart and  
warmed it there,

Yea, crowned me Queen—I neediest of His  
least,

I will be worthy of the joy I wear.

## THE SEER OF HEARTS

For mocking on men's faces

He only sees instead

The hidden, hundred traces

Of tears their eyes have shed.

Above their lips denying,

Through all their boasting dares,

He hears the anguished crying

Of old unanswered prayers.

And through the will's reliance

He only sees aright

A frightened child's defiance

Left lonely in the night.

## THE UNSEEN MIRACLE

THE Angel of the night when night was gone  
High upon Heaven's ramparts, cried, "The Dawn!"

And wheeling worlds grew radiant with the one  
And undiminished glory of the sun.

And Angel, Seraph, Saint and Cherubim  
Raised to the morning their exultant hymn.

All Heaven thrilled anew to look upon  
The great recurring miracle of dawn.

And in the little worlds beneath them—men  
Rose, yawned and ate and turned to toil again.

## THE APRIL BOUGHS

It was not then her heart broke—

That moment when she knew

That all her faith held holiest

Was utterly untrue.

It was not then her heart broke—

That night of prayer and tears

When first she dared the thought of life

Through all the empty years.

But when beneath the April boughs

She felt the blossoms stir,

The careless mirth of yesterday

Came near and smiled at her.

Old singing lingered in the wind,

Old joy came close again,

Oh, underneath the April boughs,

I think her heart broke then.



## TRANSIENTS

THEY are ashamed who leave so soon  
The Inn of Grief—who thought to stay  
Through many a faithful sun and moon,  
Yet tarry but a day.

Shame-faced I watch them pay the score,  
Then straight with eager footsteps press  
Where waits beyond its rose-wreathed door  
The Inn of Happiness.

I wish I did not know that here,  
Here too—where they have dreamed to stay  
So many and many a golden year  
They lodge but for a day.

## THE MOTHER

So quietly I seem to sit apart;

I think she does not know or guess at all,  
How dear this certain hour to my old heart,  
When in our quiet street the shadows fall.

She leans and listens at the little gate.

I sit so still, not any eye might see  
How watchfully before her there I wait  
For that one step that brings my world to me.

She does not know that long before they meet  
(So eagerly must go a love athirst),  
My heart outstrips the flying of her feet,  
And meets and greets him first—and greets him  
first.

## WHEN PIERROT PASSES

HIGH above his happy head  
Little leaves of Spring were spread;  
And adown the dewy lawn  
Soft as moss the young green grass  
Wooded his footsteps, and the dawn  
Paused to watch him pass.  
Even so he seemed in truth  
Dancing between Love and Youth;  
And his song as gay a thing  
Still before him seemed to go  
Light as any bird awing,  
Blithe as jonquils in the Spring,  
And we laughed and said, "Pierrot,  
      'Tis Pierrot."

“Oh,” he sang, “Her hands are far  
Sweeter than white roses are;  
When I hold them to my lips,  
Ere I dare a finer bliss,  
Petal-like her finger-tips  
Tremble 'neath my kiss.  
And the mocking of her eyes  
Lures me like blue butterflies  
Falling—lifting—of their grace,  
And her mouth—her mouth is wine.”  
And we laughed as though her face  
Suddenly illumed the place,  
And we said, “'Tis Columbine,  
Columbine.”

## THE POET

He made him a love o' dreams—

He raised for his heart's delight—  
(As the heart of June a crescent moon)  
A frail, fair spirit of light.

He gave her the gift of joy—

The gift of the dancing feet—  
He made her a thing of very Spring—  
Virginal—wild and sweet.

But when he would draw her near

To his eager heart's content,  
As a sunbeam slips from the finger-tips  
She slipped from his hold and went.

Virginal—wild—and sweet—

So she eludes him still—

The love that he made of dawn and shade

Of dominant want and will.

For ever the dream of man

Is more than the dreamer is;

Though he form it whole of his inmost soul,

Yet never 'tis wholly his.

Only is given to him

The right to follow and yearn

The loveliness he may not possess,

The vision that may not turn.

Never to hold or to bind—

Only to know how fleet

The dream that is and yet is not his,—

Virginal—wild—and sweet.

## MAGDALEN

My father took me by the hand  
And led me home again;  
(He brought me in from sorrow  
As you'd bring a child from rain).  
The child's place at the hearth-stone,  
The child's place at the board,  
And the picture at the bed's head  
Of wee ones wi' the Lord.

It's just a child come home he sees  
To nestle at his arm;  
(He brought me in from sorrow  
As you'd bring a child from harm).

And of the two of us who sit  
By hearth and candle-light,  
There's just one hears a woman's heart  
Break—breaking in the night.



## A SALEM MOTHER

## I

THEY whisper at my very gate,  
These clacking gossips every one,  
“We saw them in the wood of late,  
Her and the widow’s son;  
The horses at the forge may wait,  
The wool may go unspun.”

I spread the food he loves the best,  
I light the lamp when day is done,  
Yet still he stays another’s guest—  
Oh, my one son, my son.  
I would it burned in mine own breast  
The spell he may not shun.

She hath bewitched him with her eyes.

(No goodly maid hath eyes as bright.)

Pale in the morn I watch him rise,

As one who wanders far by night.

The gossips whisper and surmise—

I hide me from the light.

## II

Her hair is yellow as the corn,

Her eyes are bluer than the sky;

Behind the casement yester-morn,

I watched her passing by.

My son not yet had broken bread,

Yet from the table did he rise,

She said no word nor turned her head,

What then the spell that bade him stir,

Nor heeding any word I said,

Put by my hands and follow her.

## III

He was so strong and wise and good—  
Was there no other she might take,  
Nor other mothers' hearts to break?

What though she bade the harvest fail,  
What though she willed the cattle die,  
So my son's soul was spared thereby.

My cattle fill the pasture-land,  
The ripe fruit thickens on the tree,  
My son, my son is lost to me.

## IV

They burned a witch in our town,  
On hangman's hill to-day;  
And black the ashes drifted down,  
Ashes black and grey,

Not white like those o' martyred folk

Whose souls are clean as they.

They burned a witch in our town,

Upon a windy hill,

For that she made the wells sink down

And wrought a young man ill,

The smoke rose black against the sky,

And hangs before it still.

They burned a witch in our town,

And sure they did but right,

*And yet I would the rain could drown*

*That blackened hill from sight,*

*And some great wind might drive that cloud*

*'Twixt God and me this night.*

## THE DAYS

I CALL my years back, I, grown old,  
Recall them day by day;  
And some are dressed in cloth o' gold  
And some in humble grey.

And those in gold glance scornfully  
Or pass me unawares;  
But those in grey come close to me  
And take my hands in theirs.

## THE CALL

I must be off where the green boughs beckon—  
Why should I linger to barter and reckon?  
The mart may pay me—the mart may cheat me,  
I have had enough of the huckster's din,  
The calm of the deep woods waits to greet me,  
    (Heart of the high hills, take me in.)

I must be off where the brooks are waking,  
Where birds are building and green leaves break-  
    ing.  
Why should the hold of an old task bind me?  
I know of an eyrie I fain would win  
Where a wind of the West shall seek me and find  
    me,  
    (Heart of my high hills, take me in.)

I must be off where the stars are nearer,  
Where feet go swifter and eyes see clearer,  
Little I heed what the toilers name me—  
I have heard the call that to miss were sin,  
The April voices that clamour and claim me,  
    (Heart of my high hills, take me in.)

## THE PARASITE

They brought to the little Princess, from her  
earliest hour of birth,

The lovely things, the beautiful things, the soft  
things of earth.

They covered her floor with crimson, they wrapped  
her in eiderdown;

They hung the windows with cloth of gold, lest  
her eyes look down;

(Lest the highway show an unlovely thing  
And her eyes look down.)

They brought rare toys to her cradle, rich gems to  
her maidenhood;

All that she saw was beautiful, all that she heard  
was good.



When tumult rose in the city they bade her minstrels sing;

They drowned with the sound of music a people's clamouring;

(Lest she turn and hark to the highway,

And hear an unlovely thing.)

But there came a day of terror, when a cry too sharp and long

Tore through the streets of the city, through the soft, sweet song.

She bade her singers be silent—silent they stood in awe;

She raised the gold from the window; she looked down and saw.

(She leaned and looked on the highway,

She looked down and saw.)

She saw men driven like cattle, she heard the woman's cry,

She saw the white-faced children toil, and the weaklings die.

She saw the bound and the beaten beneath her like shifting sands,

And—she dropped the cloth on her window with her own white hands,

(She shut out her people's crying  
With her own white hands.)

As a child may turn from a picture that he may not understand,

She turned to fragrance and music,—to soft things and bland.

*If the Princess is blind to anguish, if the Princess is deaf to woe,*

*If the streets of her city may run with blood, and she not know,*

*Now theirs is the blame who have closed her in  
ease as in folded wings,  
Who have barred the doors and windows, what  
time her minstrel sings,  
Lest her eyes look down on the highway,  
And look on unlovely things.*

## YOUTH

WHAT do they know of youth, who still are  
young?

They but the singers of a golden song  
Who may not guess its worth or wonder—  
flung

Like largesse to the throng.

We only,—young no longer,—old so long  
Before its harmonies, stand marvelling—  
Oh! we who listen—never they who sing.

Not for itself is beauty, but for us  
Who gaze upon it with all reverent eyes;  
And youth which sheds its glory luminous,  
Gives ever in this wise:—

Itself the joy it may not realise.

Only we know, who linger overlong

Youth that is made of beauty and of song.

## THE EMPTY HOUSE

April will come to the quiet town  
That I left long ago,  
Scattering primroses up and down—  
Row upon happy row.

(Oh, little green lane, will she come  
your way,

To a certain path I know?)

April will pause by cottage and gate  
In the wild, sweet evening rain,  
Where the garden borders run brown  
and straight,  
To coax them to bloom again.

(Oh, little sad garden that once  
was gay,

Must she call to you all in vain?)

April will come to cottage and hill,

Laughing her lovers awake.

(Oh, little closed house, so cold and

still,

Will she find you for old joy's sake,

And leave one primrose beside your

door,

Lest the heart of your garden break?)

## THE BROKEN LUTE

GOOD-BYE, my song—I, who found words for  
sorrow,

Offer my joy to-day a useless lute.

In the deep night I sang me of the morrow;

The sun is on my face and I am mute.

Good-bye, my song, in you was all by yearning,

The prayer for this poor heart I wore so long.

Now love heaps roses where the wounds were  
burning;

What need have I for song?

Long since I sang of all one loves and misses;

How may I sing to-day who know no wrong?

My lips are all for laughter and for kisses.

Good-bye, my song.



## ORCHARDS

ORCHARDS in the Spring-time! Oh, I think and  
think of them,—

Filmy mists of pink and white above the fresh,  
young green,

Lifting and drifting,—how my eyes could drink  
of them,

*I'm staring at a dirty wall beyond a big machine.*

Orchards in the Spring-time! Deep in soft, cool  
shadows,—

Moving all together when the west wind blows  
Fragrance upon fragrance over road and  
meadows—

*I'm smelling heat and oil and sweat, and thick,  
black clothes.*

Orchards in the Spring-time! The clean white  
and pink of them

Lifting and drifting with all the winds that blow.

Orchards in the Spring-time! Thank God I still  
can think of them!

*You're not docked for thinking,—if the foreman  
doesn't know.*

## TWILIGHT

BELOW them in the twilight the quiet village lies,  
And warm within its holding, the old folks and  
the wise,

But here within the open fields the paths of Eden  
show,

And, hand in hand, across them the little lovers go.

Below them in the village are peaceful folk and  
still,

They gossip of old yesterdays, of merry times or  
ill.

But here beyond the twilight stray two who only  
see

The promise of to-morrow—the dawn that is to be.

Below them in the village the quiet hearth-flames  
glow,

With friendly word and greeting the neighbours  
come and go,

But here the silence folds them together, each  
to each,

And lights within the mating eyes the dream be-  
yond their speech.

Below them in the village stay honest toil and  
truth,—

They rest there who adventured the road of love  
and youth.

Smile out, old hearts, when once again two take  
the path you know,

And, hand in hand, at twilight the little lovers go.

## A LOVE SONG

My love it should be silent, being deep—  
And being very peaceful should be still—  
Still as the utmost depths of ocean keep—  
Serenely silent as some mighty hill.

Yet is my love so great it needs must fill  
With very joy the inmost heart of me,  
The joy of dancing branches on the hill,  
The joy of leaping waves upon the sea.

## OLD BOATS

I saw the old sea captain in his city daughter's  
house,  
Shaved till his chin was pink, and brushed till  
his hair was flat,  
In a broadcloth suit and varnished boots and a  
collar up to his ears.  
(I'd seen him last with a slicker on and a tied  
down oilskin hat.)

And it happened that I went home last June, and  
saw in Mallory's yard  
The old red dory that sprung a leak a couple of  
years ago,

Dragged out of good salt water and braced to  
stand in the grass

And be filled with dirt from stem to stern, where  
posies and such could grow.

Painted to beat the band, with vines strung over  
the sides

And red geraniums in the bow,—a boat that was  
built for water

Made into a flower garden. I looked, but I didn't  
laugh,

For I thought of the old sea captain living in  
town with his daughter.

## BEAUTY

SOMETIMES, slow moving through unlovely  
days,

The need to look on beauty falls on me  
As on the blind the anguished wish to see,  
As on the dumb the urge to rage or praise;  
Beauty of marble where the eyes may gaze  
Till soothed to peace by white serenity,  
Or canvas where one master hand sets free  
Great colours that like angels blend and blaze.

O, there be many starved in this strange  
wise—

For this diviner food their days deny,  
Knowing beyond their vision beauty stands



With pitying eyes—with tender, outstretched  
hands,

Eager to give to every passer-by

The loveliness that feeds a soul's demands.

## A SONG

I AM as weary as a child

That weeps upon its mother's breast  
For joy of comforting. But I  
Have no such place to rest.

I am as weary as a bird

Blown by wild winds far out to sea  
When it regains its nest. But, Oh,  
There waits no nest for me.

What think you may sustain the bird

That finds no housing after flight?  
And what the little child console  
Who weeps alone at night?

## MOTHERS OF MEN

MOTHERS of men—the words are good indeed in  
the saying,

Pride in the very sound of them, strength in  
the sense of them, then

Why is it their faces haunt me, wistful faces as  
praying

Ever some dear thing vanished and ever a hope  
delaying,

Mothers of Men?

Mothers of Men, most patient, tenderly slow to  
discover

The loss of the old allegiance that may not  
return again.

You give a man to the world, you give a woman  
a lover—

Where is your solace then when the time of giving  
is over,

Mothers of Men?

Mothers of Men, but surely, the title is worth the  
earning.

You who are brave in feigning must I ever be-  
hold you then

By the door of an empty heart with the lamp of  
faith still burning,

Watching the ways of life for the sight of a child  
returning,

Mothers of Men?

## LOVELACE GROWN OLD

## I

My life has been like a bee that roves

Through a scented garden close,

And 'tis I who have kept the honey of  
love,

The hoarded sweetness and scent thereof,

For all I forget the rose.

Oh, exquisite gardens long forgot

That have made my store complete,

Though winter fall upon blossom and bee,

Yet the kisses I garnered remain with  
me

Forever and ever sweet.

## II

The Priest hath had his word and said his say—

A word i' faith more honest than beguiling—

But now he turns upon his gloomy way—

Good soul, he leaves me smiling.

I may not ponder much on future wrath;

Of all those loves of mine, some six or seven,

Surely ere this have climbed that thorny path

That leads at last to Heaven.

My bold, brown beauties, eh, my delicate

And golden damsels with uncensuring eyes,

Not long once did you make your Lovelace wait

Outside of Paradise.

Much am I minded of a certain night—

A night of moon and drifting clouds that hid

The convent wall from overmuch of light

Whereby one watched forbid.

Watched, till he heard within the trembling sound

Of white, girl fingers on the rusting key

That turned her heart as well, till each unbound

Let in felicity.

Ah well, I have small fear—her eyes were blue;

Blue eyes remember though it cost them tears.

Who knows but that same hand shall lead me

through

Another Gate of Fears.

In the same fashion, brave, yet most afraid,

Bold for her love yet trembling for her sin—

So, Saints were tricked before. My blue-eyed

maid,

Be there to let me in.

## III

Since I loved you for a day—Ah, a day, the fleet-  
est—

Since I sighed and rode away when our love was  
sweetest,

So shall you remember me, now that youth is  
over,

Fairly, of your courtesy, as your fondest lover.

Since I turned and said good-bye when my heart  
was truest,

Since we parted, you and I, when our joy was  
newest,

Love might never turn to doubt and from doubt  
to scorning.

We but lived his sweetness out twixt a night  
and morning.



So shall you remember me, eager in pursuing,

Faithful as a man must be in his time o' wooing.

Greater loves but stay and pine so, now youth is  
over,

Smiling shall you think of mine—mine, your  
fondest lover.

## SHADE

THE kindest thing God ever made,  
His hand of very healing laid  
Upon a fevered world, is shade.

His glorious company of trees  
Throw out their mantles, and on these  
The dust-stained wanderer finds ease.

Green temples, closed against the beat  
Of noontime's blinding glare and heat,  
Open to any pilgrim's feet.

The white road blisters in the sun;  
Now, half the weary journey done,  
Enter and rest, Oh weary one!

And feel the dew of dawn still wet  
Beneath thy feet, and so forget  
The burning highway's ache and fret.

This is God's hospitality,  
And whoso rests beneath a tree  
Hath cause to thank Him gratefully.

## THE VAGABOND

THE little dream she had forgot  
Oh, long and long ago,  
Came back across the April fields  
And touched her garment so  
(As might a wind-blown primrose cling  
And one scarce guess or know.)

A little beggared outcast dream  
Forgot of Love and men,  
And all because a fiddler played  
An old song in the glen,  
And two Young Lovers hand in hand,  
Sent back its tune again.

The little dream she had forgot

Crept near and clung and stayed—

A roving, ragged vagabond

Half daring, half afraid,

And all because young love went by

And one old fiddler played.

## DISTANCE

A HUNDRED miles between us  
    Could never part us more  
Than that one step you took from me  
    What time my need was sore.

A hundred years between us  
    Might hold us less apart  
Than that one dragging moment  
    Wherein I knew your heart.

Now what farewell is needed  
    To all I held most dear,  
So far and far you are from me  
    I doubt if you could hear.

## THE GYPSYING

I wish we might go gypsying one day the while  
we're young—

On a blue October morning

Beneath a cloudless sky,

When all the world's a vibrant harp

The winds o' God have strung,

And gay as tossing torches the maples light us  
by;

The rising sun before us—a golden bubble  
swung—

I wish we might go gypsying one day the while  
we're young.

I wish we might go gypsying one day before we're  
old—

To step it with the wild west wind

And sing the while we go,  
Through far forgotten orchards  
Hung with jewels red and gold;  
Through cool and fragrant forests where never  
sun may show,  
To stand upon a high hill and watch the mist  
unfold—  
I wish we might go gypsying one day before  
we're old.

I wish we might go gypsying, dear lad, the while  
we care—  
The while we've heart for hazarding,  
The while we've will to sing,  
The while we've wit to hear the call  
And youth and mirth to spare,  
Before a day may find us too sad for gypsy-  
ing,



Before a day may find us too dull to dream and  
dare—

I wish we might go gypsying, dear lad, the while  
we care.

## GOOD-BYE, PIERRETTE

GOOD-BYE, Pierrette. The new moon waits  
Like some shy maiden at the gates  
Of rose and pearl, to watch us stand  
This little moment, hand in hand—  
Nor one red rose its watch abates.

The low wind through your garden prates  
Of one this twilight desolates.

Ah, was it this your roses planned?  
Good-bye, Pierrette.

Oh, merriest of little mates,  
No sadder lover hesitates  
Beneath this moon in any land;

Nor any roses, watchful, bland,  
Look on a sadder jest of Fate's.  
Good-bye, Pierrette.

## THE AWAKENING

WHEN the white dawn comes

I shall kneel to welcome it;

The dread that darkened on my eyes

Shall vanish and be gone.

I shall look upon it

As the parched on fountains,

*Yet it was the blinding night*

*That taught the joy of dawn.*

When the first bird sings,

Oh, I shall hear rejoicing,

And all my life shall thrill to it

And all my heart draw near.

I shall lean to listen

Lest a note elude me,

*Yet it was the fearsome night*

*That taught me how to hear.*

When the sun comes up

I shall lift my arms to it;

The fear of fear shall fall from me

As shackles from a slave.

I shall run to hail it,

Free and unbewildered,

*Yet it was the silent night*

*That taught me to be brave.*

## THE WEDDING GOWN

SHE put her wedding-gown away  
As tenderly as one might close,  
With kissing lips and finger-tips,  
The petals of a rose  
Still held for the Belovèd's sake—  
The loveliest that blows.

She put her wedding-gown away—  
The quiet place was all astir  
With vague perfume that filled the room,  
Cedar and lavender,  
Yet sweeter still about it clung  
The fragrant thoughts of her.  
She put her wedding-gown away—  
Yet lingered where its whiteness gleamed

As one above a sleeping Love,

Oh, thus it was she seemed,

Reluctant still to turn and go

And leave him as he dreamed.

## THE DISCIPLES

A GREAT king made a feast for Love,  
And golden was the board and gold  
The hundred, wondrous gauds thereof;  
Soft lights like roses fell above  
Rare dishes exquisite and fine;  
In jeweled goblets shone the wine—  
A great king made a feast for Love.

*Yet Love as gladly and full-fed hath fared  
Upon a broken crust that two have shared;  
And from scant wine as glorious dreams drawn  
up  
Seeing two lovers kissed above the cup.*

A great king made for Love's delight  
A temple wonderful wherein



Served jeweled priest and acolyte;  
There fell no darkness day or night  
    Since there his highest altar shone  
    With flaming gems as some white sun,  
A temple made for Love's delight.

*Yet Love hath found a temple as complete  
In some bare attic where two lovers meet;  
    And made his altar by one candle's flame  
    Seeing two lovers burned it in his name.*

## THE UNKNOWING

THEY do not know the awful tears we shed,  
The tender treasures that we keep and kiss;  
They could not be so still—our quiet dead  
In knowing this.

They do not know what time we turn to fill  
Love's empty chalice with a cheaper bliss;  
They could not be so still—so very still  
In knowing this.

## HEART OF A HUNDRED SORROWS

OH, Heart of a Hundred Sorrows,  
Whose pity is great therefore,  
The gift that thy children bring thee  
Is ever a sorrow more.

Sure of thy dear compassion,  
Concerned for our own relief,  
Ever and ever we seek thee;  
And each with his gift of grief.

Oh, not to reprove my brothers,  
Yet I, who am less than less,  
Would bring thee my joy of being  
The rose of my happiness.

The spirit that makes my singing

The gladness without alloy,

Oh, Heart of a Hundred Sorrows,

I bring thee a little joy.

## THE RETURNING

I SAID I will go back again where we  
Were glad together. But my dear, my dear,  
Where are the roses we were wont to see  
The songs we used to hear?

I said the hearth-flame that once burned for us  
I will renew with all the cheer of old,  
Yet here within the circle luminous  
Our very hearts are cold.

That was a barren garden that we found,  
This was an empty house we came to meet,  
We, who for all our longing, hear no sound  
Of Love's returning feet.

## THE INLANDER

I NEVER climb a high hill

Or gaze across the lea,

But, Oh, beyond the two of them,

Beyond the height and blue of them,

I'm looking for the sea.

A blue sea—a crooning sea—

A grey sea lashed with foam—

But, Oh, to take the drift of it,

To know the surge and lift of it,

And 'tis I am longing for it as the homeless  
long for home.

I never dream at night-time

Or close my eyes by day,

But there I have the might of it,  
The wind-whipped, sun-drenched sight of it,  
That calls my soul away.

Oh, deep dreams and happy dreams,  
Its dreaming still I'd be,  
For still the land I'm waking in,  
'Tis that my heart is breaking in,  
And 'tis far where I'd be sleeping with the  
blue waves over me.

## AD FINEM

I like to think this friendship that we hold  
As youth's high gift in our two hands to-day  
Still shall we find as bright, untarnished gold  
What time the fleeting years have left us  
grey.

I like to think we two shall watch the May  
Dance down her happy hills and Autumn fold  
The world in flame and beauty, we grown old  
Staunch comrades on an undivided way.

I like to think of Winter nights made bright  
By book and hearth-flame when we two shall  
smile  
At memories of to-day—we two content



To count our vanished dawns by candle-light  
Seeing we hold in our old hands the while  
The gift of gold youth left us as she went.

## A SONG OF HELOISE

God send thee peace, Oh, great unhappy heart—

A world away, I pray that thou mayst rest

Softly as on the Well-Belovèd's breast,

Where ever in her wistful dreams thou art.

At dawn my prayer is all for thee, at noon

My very heart and, Oh, at night my tears

For all we walk alone the empty years

Nor meet neath any sun—neath any moon.

Yet must my love go with thee—all apart

From this the life I lend to lesser things;

God send to thee this night beneath its wings,

A little peace, Oh, great unhappy heart.

## THE RETURN

I COME to you grown weary of much laughter,  
From jangling mirth that once seemed over-  
sweet,  
From all the mocking ghosts that follow after  
A man's returning feet;  
Give me no word of welcome or of greeting  
Only in silence let me enter in,  
Only in silence when our eyes are meeting,  
Absolve me of my sin.

I come to you grown weary of much living,  
Open your door and lift me of your grace,  
I ask for no compassion, no forgiving,  
Only your face, your face;

Only in that white peace that is your dwelling  
To come again, before your feet to sink,  
And of your quiet as of wine compelling  
Drink as the thirsting drink.

Be kind to me as sleep is kind that closes  
With tender hands men's fever-wearied eyes,  
Your arms are as a garden of white roses  
Where old remembrance lies,  
I, who am bruised with words and pierced with  
chiding,  
Give me your silence as a Saint might give  
Her white cloak for some hunted creature's hiding,  
That he might rest and live.

## THE POPLARS

My poplars are like ladies trim,  
Each conscious of her own estate;  
In costume somewhat over prim,  
In manner cordially sedate,  
Like two old neighbours met to chat  
Beside my garden gate.

My stately old aristocrats—  
I fancy still their talk must be  
Of rose-conserves and Persian cats,  
And lavender and Indian tea;—  
I wonder sometimes as I pass  
If they approve of me.

I give them greeting night and morn,  
I like to think they answer, too,  
With that benign assurance born  
When youth gives age the reverence due,  
And bend their wise heads as I go  
As courtcous ladies do.

Long may you stand before my door,  
Oh, kindly neighbours garbed in green,  
And bend with rustling welcome o'er  
The many friends who pass between;  
And where the little children play  
Look down with gracious mien.

## THE LITTLE JOYS

My little joys went by me

As little children run

Across the fields at sunset

When playing time is done.

And now alone at twilight

What is there may content

The heart that loved their laughter

And frolic merriment?

Ah well, who knows but still may dawn

Another fairer day

Wherein my little joys may come

A-dancing out to play.





SONGS OF HIMSELF



## HIMSELF

THE houseful that we were then, you could count  
us by the dozens,

The wonder was that sometimes the old walls  
wouldn't burst:

Herself (the Lord be good to her!), the aunts and  
rafts of cousins,

The young folks and the children,—but Himself  
came first.

*Master of the House he was, and well for them  
that knew it:*

*His cheeks like winter apples and his head like  
snow;*

*Eyes as blue as water when the sun of March  
shines through it.*

*And steppin' like a soldier with his stick held so.*

Faith, but he could tell a tale would serve a man  
for wages,

Sing a song would put the joy of dancin' in two  
sticks;

But Saints between themselves and harm that saw  
him in his rages,

Blazin' and oratin' over chess and politics.

*Master of the House he was, and that beyond all  
sayin',*

*Eh, the times I've heard him exhortin' from his  
chair*

*The like of any Bishop, yet snappin' off his prayin'  
To put the curse on Phelan's dog for howlin' in  
the prayer.*

The times I've seen him walkin' out like Solomon  
in glory,

Salutin' with great elegance the gentry he might  
meet;

An eye for every pretty girl, an ear for every  
 story,  
 And takin' as his just deserts the middle of the  
 street.

*Master of the House, with much to love and be  
 forgiven,—*

*Yet, thinkin' of Himself to-day—Himself—I see  
 him go*

*With that old light step of his, across the Courts  
 of Heaven,*

*His hat a little sideways and his stick held so.*

## THE FAIR

THE pick o' seven counties, so they're tellin' me,  
was there,

Horses racin' on the track, and fiddles on the green,  
Flyin' flags and blowin' horns and all that makes a  
fair,

I'm hearin' that the like of it was something never  
seen.

So it is they're tellin' me,

Girl dear, it may be true—

I only know the bonnet strings

Beneath your chin were blue.

I'm hearin' that the cattle came that thick they  
stood in rows,

And Doolan's Timmy caught the pig and Terry  
climbed the pole,  
They're tellin' me they showed the cream of every-  
thing that grows,  
And never man had eyes enough for takin' in the  
whole.

So it is they're tellin' me,  
Girl dear, it may be so,  
I only know your little gown  
Was whiter than the snow.

They're tellin' me the gentry came from twenty  
miles about,  
And him that came from Ballinsloe sang limp'in'  
Jamesey down,  
And 'twas Himself, no less, stood by to give the  
prizes out,  
They're tellin' me you'd hear the noise from here  
to Dublin town.

So it is they're tellin' me,  
Girl dear, the same may be,  
I only know that comin' home  
You gave your word to me.



## HIS DANCING DAYS

NEVER did I find me mate for charmin' an' de-  
lightin',

Never one that had me bate for courtin' an' for  
fightin';—

(A white moon at the crossroads then, and Denny  
with the fiddle;

The parish round admirin', when I danced down  
the middle.)

Up the earth and down again, me like you'd not  
discover;

Arrah! for the times before me dancin' days were  
over!

Never was a moon so low it didn't find me court-  
in',

Never blade I couldn't show a wilder way of  
sportin'.

(Is it at the fair I'd be, the gentry'd troop to talk  
with me;

Leapin' with delight was she,—the girl I'd choose  
to walk with me.)

'Twas I could win the pick of them from any lad  
or lover;

Arrah! for the times before me dancin' days were  
over!

What's come to all the lads to-day,—these mourn-  
ful ways they're keepin',

Grudgin' any hour to play and wastin' nights in  
sleepin'.

(Readin' be the chimney-place,—that dacent in  
their habits,

You'd sooner get a fight or song be callin' upon  
rabbits.)

Faith, I'd change the lot for one rejoicin', rantin'  
rover,

*The like of me, myself, before me dancin' days  
were over.*

## SHEILA

KATIE had the grand eyes and Delia had a way  
with her,

And Mary had the Saints' face and Maggie's waist  
was neat,

But Sheila had the merry heart that travelled all  
the day with her,

That put the laughing on her lips and dancing in  
her feet.

I've met with martyrs in my time, and Faith! they  
make the best of it,

But 'tis the uncomplaining ones that wear a sor-  
row long,

'Twas Sheila had the better way and that's to make  
a jest of it,  
To call her trouble out to dance and step it with a  
song.

Eh, but Sheila had the laugh the like of drink to  
weary ones,  
(I've never heard the beat of it for all I've wan-  
dered wide.)

*And out of all the girls I knew the tender ones—  
the dreary ones,—*

*'Twas only Sheila of the laugh that broke her  
heart and died.*

## THE GRIEF

THE heart of me's an empty thing, that never stirs  
at all

For Moon-shine or Spring-time, or a far bird's  
call.

I only know 'tis living by a grief that shakes it  
so,—

Like an East wind in Autumn, when the old nests  
blow.

Grey Eyes and Black Hair, 'tis never you I  
blame.

'Tis long years and easy years since last I spoke  
your name,

And I'm long past the knife-thrust I got at wake  
or fair,

Or looking past the lighted door and fancying you  
there.

Grey Eyes and Black Hair—the grief is never  
this;

I've long forgot the soft arms—the first, wild kiss.

But, Oh, girl that tore my youth,—'tis this I have  
to bear,—

*If you were kneeling at my feet I'd neither stay  
nor care.*

## THE INTRODUCTION

I'm askin' you'll be easy for a bit, Sir,

The lad's had little but a thrush's schoolin',  
The blue skies and the fields, the little whipster,  
'Tis time enough for something more—(But  
whisper)

He'll go the better for an easy rulin'.

Herself was always for the bit of readin'

But Denny here, he's great for growin'  
things,

There's not a primrose that he'd not be heedin'

Herself is right 'tis graver things he's needin'

The thrush is tamer when you clip his wings.  
I'd never have you spare him with the learnin',



(And, Faith, 'tis little that the lad has had),  
But if above his task you'll see him turnin'  
To watch the fields—'tis just the thrush's yearn-  
in'—

I'm askin' you'll be easy with the lad.

## THE STAY-AT-HOME

COMIN' or goin' still they spread the news,  
About America how grand it is,  
The wonders that are waitin' you to choose  
And gold that common that like sand it is.  
"And here you stick," says they. "Like some old  
tree  
Stuck in the bog belaboured by all seasons.  
What's ailin' ye?" says they. Well, leave them  
be,  
I have me reasons.

There's Cormac's Hugh come back with all his  
talk,  
Spreadin' and spendin' like a king he is.

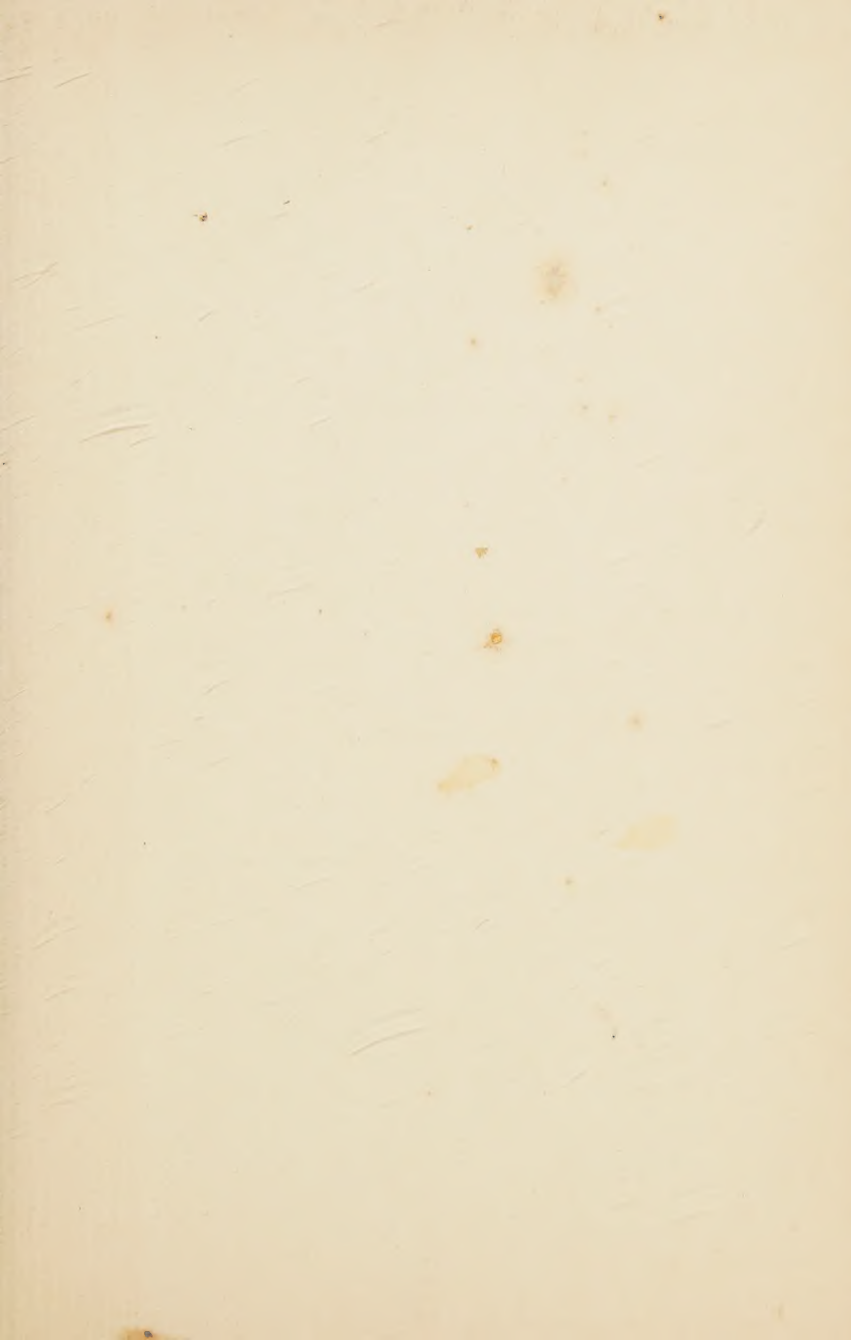
The people flockin' down the way he'll walk,  
 Till in the middle of a ring he is.  
 But where's that one whose face was like a rose  
 The day he went, betwixt her tears and teasin's?  
 Married these five years—gone where no man  
     knows,  
 Faith, I've me reasons.

"A likely lad," they say. "What's ailin' you,  
 The gold and riches over there it is."  
 Sure, I'm not doubtin' what they say is true  
 They have me leave to hurry where it is.  
 'Tis I will hold the treasure that endures,  
 The while I'm listenin' to their talks and treasons.  
*Oh, Sheila girl, those two blue eyes of yours,*  
 Faith, I've me reasons.











S0-BAP-208

